

Blazing a Trail
TOWARD HONORING
& GIVING

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL
2012 GALA

TO HONOR OUR
HALL OF FAME
&
COUGAR NATION WALL OF HONOR
INDUCTEES



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Blazing a Trail
TOWARD HONORING
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Welcome to the 2012
John F. Kennedy High School
Hall of Fame
&
Cougar Nation Wall of Honor
Induction Ceremony and Dinner

Saturday, December 1st, 2012

Coral House Caterers

Baldwin, NY

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

Blazing a Trail TOWARD HONORING & GIVING

Dear Friends of Kennedy High School:

Welcome to the 2012 John F. Kennedy High School “Hall of Fame/Cougar Nation Wall of Honor” Dinner and Induction Ceremony. We are truly pleased that you have taken the time to join us for this wonderful event!

Tonight, the administration of Kennedy High School has the honor of inducting nine new members into the Hall of Fame. These nine individuals have all demonstrated success in both their personal and professional careers. Additionally, each one of them has given back to the local or global community, thus following the mandate of President John F. Kennedy:

“To those whom much is given, much is expected.”

It is our hope that the educational foundation they received at Kennedy High School helped them achieve their dreams, goals and successes. They are role models for our students and we are proud of all of their accomplishments. Congratulations to them and to their families on this special recognition.

This evening we also have the honor of bestowing recognition on four retired staff members, whose combined 124 years of service to the Bellmore-Merrick communities have influenced thousands of graduates who have walked our halls since the opening of Kennedy in 1966. We are grateful for their service and for the role they have played in shaping the lives of so many Kennedy students.

Tonight is a wonderful celebration of the past, present and future of Kennedy High School. Thank you for sharing this evening with us.

Sincerely,

*Eileen Connolly
Assistant Principal*

The administration of John F. Kennedy High School
proudly announces the 2012 inductees into the
“Hall of Fame” & “Cougar Nation Wall of Honor”

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

(Alumni)

Susan Katz Holland '69 (Retired Special Education Teacher)
Col. Steven Hunte, USA (Ret.) '73 (Physical Therapist/National All-Army Wrestler)
Artie Kempner '77 (Television Sports Director/National Committee-Autism Speaks)
Joan Littman Landry '84 (Contract Engineer/Veteran of United States Army)
Steve Levy '83 (Sports Analyst-ESPN)
Dr. Gary Morganstern '73 (Doctor of Dentistry/President, JFK Alumni Association)
Adam Schefter '85 (National Football League “Insider”/ESPN)
Larry Scott '82 (Commissioner, NCAA PAC-12 Conference)
Ronald Steiger '72 (Financial Advisor/Trustee, JFK Alumni Association)

COUGAR NATION WALL OF HONOR

(Retired Faculty)

Frederic Cohen (JFK Principal/BMCHSD Deputy Superintendent)
Alan Berkowsky (Teacher of Mathematics/Track Coach)
Alan Fleishman (Teacher of Social Studies/Advisor/Tennis Coach)
Robert Wigand (Teacher of Social Studies/Dean/Wrestling Coach)

*Thank you to our
Hall of Fame "Helpers"*

Chair of Hall Of Fame Committee

Eileen Connolly, Assistant Principal

Hall of Fame Committee Advisors:

Lorraine Poppe, Principal

Madeline Donahoe, Math Chairperson

A special thank you to...

- Mr. Howard Kaden (Alumni Association Vice-President) for his support, advisement and expertise in the publication of this journal.
- Mr. Mark Melillo (Kennedy Librarian) for his assistance in compiling materials, scanning and being willing to support the cause.
- Mr. Ronald Steiger (Alumni Association Trustee) for his willingness to always “step up to the plate” whenever anything is needed.
- Dr. Gary Morganstern (Alumni Association President) for his constant support of all things “Kennedy High School.”
- The Kennedy High School PTA, Music Boosters and Sports Booster Associations.



John F. Kennedy High School History



John F. Kennedy High School opened in September 1966 with grades 10 and 11. It became the third high school in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District #3 was one of only three central high school districts in New York State.

The district at that time was comprised of Wellington C. Mepham and Sanford H. Calhoun High Schools, Jerusalem Avenue, Merrick Avenue, Grand Avenue and Brookside Junior Highs. Boundaries of the newly established Kennedy High School would include south of Sunrise Highway between Meadowbrook Parkway and east to the Wantagh border, including the towns of South Merrick and South Bellmore. Boundaries were to shift as the population changed and demographics over the years forced the closing of Jerusalem Avenue and Brookside Junior Highs.

The 9th graders were then added to the three high schools, changing the junior high schools to middle schools for 7th and 8th graders. Today, the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District consists of two middle schools that feed into the three high schools. Kennedy is the only high school that draws students from both Grand Avenue and Merrick Avenue Middle Schools.

Population Changes: Class sizes have varied from the 400's in the early 1970's, to 500-600 in the 1980's, and has declined to the low 200's in the 1990's due to demographics. In 1966, with grades 10 and 11, Kennedy's population was over 980 students. By the late 1970's it rose to 2200 students in grades 10, 11, and 12. In 1996, the population for all four grades totaled 830 students. Today, Kennedy High School boasts and enrollment of 1275 students.

In the forty-eight year history of John F. Kennedy High School, there have only been four building principals. The current principal is Lorraine Poppe, holding the distinction of being the longest serving principal in the history of the school (eighteen years):

Anthony Yeneralo – September 1966- June 1972

Morten Tannenbaum – September 1972- June 1984

Fredrick Cohen - September 1984- June 1995

Lorraine Poppe – September 1995 – Present

Excerpts taken from The John F. Kennedy Alumni Directory-1994.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Susan Katz Holland

Class of 1969

A 1973 graduate of Bowling Green State University, Susan Katz Holland continued her education by earning a master's degree in Special Education from Hofstra University. As a 35 - year educator, Susan helped shape the lives of thousands of special needs students within the Bellmore-Merrick community.

- Educator at Lakeside Levy Elementary School for 33 years
- First special educator hired in Merrick Elementary District
- Instrumental in initiating the first SEPTA program in Merrick
- Executive Board member of Merrick Faculty Association
- Coordinator of numerous grade level/school level charitable endeavors

As a tireless advocate for students with special needs and as a recognized leader in her field, Susan Katz Holland embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

Colonel Steven D. Hunte,

USA (Ret.)

Class of 1973



A 1977 graduate of the University of Iowa, Steve Hunte is the most decorated wrestler in the history of Kennedy High School.

A commissioned officer of the United States Army, Steve served his country with great distinction for over 32 years, before retiring at the rank of “Colonel” in 2011.

- Three time Nassau County Section Wrestling Champion
- Two time New York State Intercollegiate & Freestyle Wrestling Champion
- Member of three NCAA Championship Wrestling Teams
- Assistant Wrestling Coach at USMA at West Point
- All-Army Wrestling Team
- Chief of Physical Therapy at Numerous Command Posts
- Recipient of Army Commendation & Army Achievement Medals

Steve’s personal commitment to helping others and his dedication to providing to the welfare of military veterans embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Artie Kempner

Class of 1977

A 1981 graduate of the University of Florida, Artie Kempner earned a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Communications, while being a member of the national powerhouse "Gators" football squad. He has distinguished himself as an athlete, sports broadcaster, television

producer and tireless advocate for autism research.

- USA Network – Director of US Open Tennis
- FOX Sports Director for the NFL and NASCAR
- FOX Sports Director of NHL
- FOX Sports Director of Super Bowl XXXIX and XLII
- Eight Time Sports Emmy Winner
- Founder and Past President of Autism Society of Delaware
- Former Board Member of Autism Society of America

Artie's pursuit of excellence has taken him from the hallways of Kennedy to the spotlights of primetime television to "behind the scenes" as a television producer. His continued support and advocacy for autism research on both a state and national level is well recognized, and he embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

Joan Littman Landry

Class of 1984

A 1988 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Joan Littman Landry has distinguished herself as an army officer, as an engineer and as a pioneer for women seeking to go where others can only dream of.



- First female from JFK to attend and graduate from the USMA at West Point
- First Lieutenant, Operations Officer, Intelligence Analyst
- Contract Engineer for Abbott Laboratories
- Recipient of Numerous Army and Corporate Awards
- Completed Fifteen Full Marathons in Eleven States

Joan's professional achievements and her personal commitment to assisting others by her service to our country and her continued efforts in opening doors to other females embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Steve Levy

Class of 1983

A 1987 graduate of the State University of New York at Oswego, Steve Levy has distinguished himself as being one of the longest tenured ESPN SportsCenter anchors in the history of the network.

A journalist, a broadcaster and play-by-play man, Steve's career has taken him from college football to the National Hockey League:

- Nicknamed "Mr. Overtime" for broadcasting the three longest televised Stanley Cup playoff games in NHL history
- Member of the ESPN crew to travel to Kuwait with SportsCenter to "Salute the Troops"
- Winner of three Emmy awards for his role on SportsCenter

As one of the most recognized voices and sports personalities on ESPN's SportsCenter, Steve has demonstrated that persistence, perseverance and effort are the cornerstones of success, and he embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

Dr. Gary Morganstern
Class of 1973



A 1977 graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Gary Morganstern continued his education at Loyola University School of Dentistry in Chicago, Illinois. As a Doctor of Dentistry in private practice in Merrick, Gary has distinguished himself as a professional, as a mentor to countless students and as the inaugural President of the John F. Kennedy High School Alumni Association.

- Private Practitioner (Doctor of Dentistry)
- President of John F. Kennedy High School Alumni Association
- Mentor - JFK Senior Experience Program
- Volunteer for Big Smiles Foundation

Gary's dedication to volunteerism and to mentoring countless students from Kennedy High School will impact their lives forever. His selfless efforts on behalf of thousands of alumni and his generosity of time, talent and spirit embody the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Adam Schefter

Class of 1985

A 1989 graduate of The University of Michigan, Adam went on to earn a master's degree at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. A journalist, a sports reporter, radio personality and television sports analyst, Adam's credits include:

- Sports Reporter for The Denver Post (Covered Denver Broncos for sixteen seasons and two Super Bowls)
- Sports Analyst for ESPN – “NFL INSIDER”
- Author of four books
- Sports Illustrated “Power 40” as one of the NFL's most influential people

As one of the most recognized sports personalities on ESPN, Adam has demonstrated that hard work and perseverance are the trademarks of success as he embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

Larry Scott

Class of 1982

A 1986 graduate of Harvard College, Larry Scott has distinguished himself as an accomplished business man and as an outstanding athlete. Larry has established a solid track record of innovation and growth, across a range of different sports, at both the college and professional levels.



- New York State Tennis Champion
- All-American Honors in Tennis at Harvard College
- Professional Tennis Player (ATP Circuit)
- Commissioner of NCAA PAC-12 Conference
- Recipient of Women's Sports Foundation "Billie Jean King Contribution Award"
- Named to Time Magazine's list of "Best Global Sports Executives"

Larry's professional achievements and his personal commitment to assisting others by expanding opportunities of student-athletes and women are remarkable indeed and embody the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Ron Steiger

Class of 1972

Ron attended Nassau Community College, Farmingdale State College and Long Island University, CW Post Campus. He has been the driving force behind the creation and movement of the JFK Alumni Association.

- Regional Sales Director of Woodbury Financial Services for New York and all New England States
- Creator of the Bellmore JFK Alumni Association website and publisher of the Alumni Newsletter
- Trustee, JFK Alumni Association
- Civic Volunteer to Countless Charities and Organizations

Ron's dedication to volunteerism, his selfless efforts on behalf of thousands of alumni and his generosity of time, talent and spirit embodies the visionary spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

COUGAR NATION WALL OF HONOR INDUCTEE

Fred Cohen



Fred Cohen's career as an educator was both diverse and enriching. He began his work as an administrator in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District as the assistant principal of Kennedy High School (1979-1984). He was then appointed as principal in 1984, where he served until becoming the District's Deputy Superintendent in 1995. His influence has been broad, working with students, teachers, and administrators. His commitment to improving instruction and ensuring that all students are given various opportunities to succeed has been his hallmark of success.

Mr. Cohen has always been an ardent supporter of Kennedy High School and the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. Even after leaving Kennedy, he was a true Cougar fan, supporting the sports program, and working tirelessly to promote art and music through the Bellmore-Merrick Arts Council. As an educational consultant at BOCES, his work continues to impact instruction and teacher training throughout Nassau County.

Mr. Cohen has been an educational leader, a mentor, and role model and well deserves his placement on the Kennedy Cougar Wall of Honor.

COUGAR NATION WALL OF HONOR INDUCTEE



Al Berkowsky

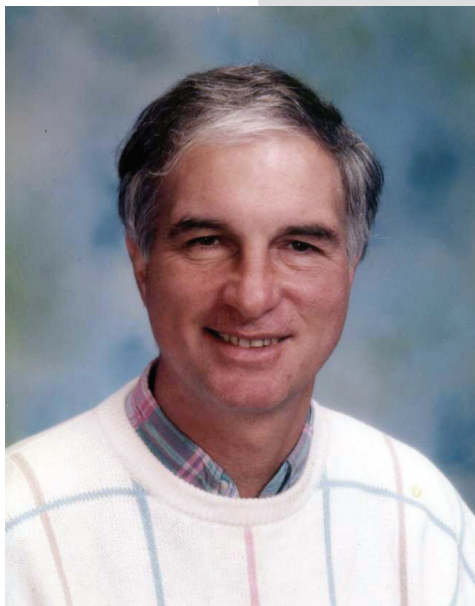
Alan Berkowsky was a member of the Mathematics Department at Kennedy High School from 1966-1995. His ability to relate to a wide range of students helped him make the study of mathematics relevant and enjoyable. His influence reached well beyond the classroom doors; he worked tirelessly to promote the sport of track and field and dedicated much of his career to this passion.

Mr. Berkowsky was an award-winning track coach from 1966-2002; his athletes were well trained, knowledgeable, and able to compete on the highest level. His program put Kennedy on the “track and field map” and was well known throughout New York State. Al's work with athletes was a 12-month commitment; his passion became their passion.

As a teacher, mentor and role model, Mr. Berkowsky's well deserves his placement on the Kennedy Cougar Nation Wall of Honor.

COUGAR NATION WALL OF HONOR INDUCTEE

Al Fleishman



Alan was a member of the Social Studies Department at Kennedy High School from 1969-2002.

A master teacher and storyteller, Mr. Fleishman made history come alive, as he taught a wide range of courses and ability levels.

He shared his talents and experiences with young and pre-service teachers, helping to ensure their success in the classroom.

In addition, Mr. Fleishman shared his passion for tennis, coaching both girls and boys, and encouraged the highest standards of sportsmanship both on and off the court.

A true scholar who has studied and traveled throughout the world, Mr. Fleishman's interests know no bounds. He is an artist, a musician, a cook, and an avid reader. He will always be a Kennedy "Renaissance Man."

Mr. Fleishman is thanked for his commitment to the students and staff at Kennedy. As a teacher, mentor, and role model, he well deserves his placement on the Kennedy Cougar Nation Wall of Honor.

COUGAR NATION WALL OF HONOR INDUCTEE



Bob Wigand

Robert Wigand was a member of the Social Studies Department at Kennedy High School from 1966-1999. As a master teacher, he was able to relate to a wide range of students and thus share his passion for history. He worked tirelessly to hone his craft and to help those around him become better teachers. When he assumed the role of Attendance Dean, he was able to reach out to those students who may have been having difficulties and “weave his magic” to try to engage them in the school community.

His success with students reached far beyond the classroom and halls at Kennedy; he worked as the assistant wrestling coach from 1968-1979, helping to build a program that continues to be admired throughout Nassau County. His passion for the sport continued beyond coaching, as he shared his talents as a Nassau County wrestling official.

Today, Mr. Wigand still volunteers his services, as he works with students and staff on various community service projects. His commitment to students, the teaching profession, and the school community truly shows that his placement on the Kennedy Cougar Nation Wall of Honor is well deserved.



Bellmore JFK Alumni, Inc.

Congratulates

All of the Inductees

to the

Hall of Fame

&

Cougar Nation Wall of Honor



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www.bellmorejfkalumni.org

*Congratulations
Gary !*



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Gary

**Congratulations on your well
deserved honor for the
dedication and service to
John F. Kennedy High School
and the**

Merrick Community

With love,

Carol, Alan, Jason,

Seth, Evan, and Lisa

(Morganstern-Grodin Family)



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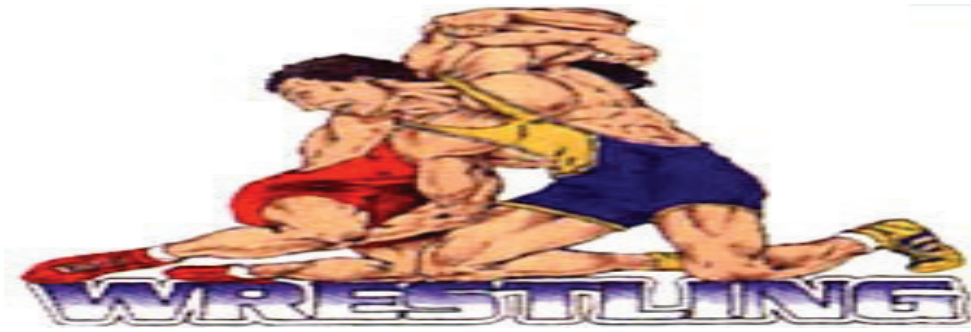


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CLASS OF '73**

**RONALD STEIGER
CLASS OF '72**

**ROBERT WIGAND
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**ALAN FLEISHMAN
FRIEND OF COUGAR WRESTLING**

**ON YOUR
JFK HALL OF FAME INDUCTION**

***YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR WRESTLING PROGRAM
HAS HELPED US MAINTAIN OUR STANDARD OF
EXCELLENCE. AS ALUMNI OF KENNEDY
WRESTLING, THE TRADITIONS YOU HELPED
START ARE STILL GOING STRONG TODAY.
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE
AND CONTINUE TO DO.***

**DAD, WE HAVE SO MANY FOND
MEMORIES OF GROWING UP PART
OF COUGAR COUNTRY WITH YOU.
WE'RE SO EXCITED TO SEE YOU ON
THE WALL OF HONOR!**



Much love,
Your kids and grandkids

**GRANDPA,
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!
THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO
TEACH US NEW THINGS EVERY DAY—
CONGRATULATIONS!**



**Local 1105
Executive Board, Staff
and Members**

**Proudly Join in Honoring
Our Friend**

**Gary Morganstern
and the rest of the Honorees
inducted into to the
John F. Kennedy High School
Hall of Fame
and the
Cougar Nation Wall of Honor**

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Phil Tobin Northern Division

**“Do not go where the path may lead;
go instead where there is no path and
leave a trail.”**

– Ralph Waldo Emerson



We proudly support
John F. Kennedy High School
and congratulate **Dr. Gary Morganstern**
and our **fellow honorees** this evening.

**With all our Love,
The Kaden Family**

In Memory of

Jimmy Director

Graduate class of 1972



Susan Director and Family is proud to
congratulate all of the Inductees into the

"Hall of Fame"
&
"Cougar Nation Wall of Honor"

Your continued hard work is appreciated by many!

Keep up the good work

Congratulations to

Dr. Gary Morganstern

for your induction to the

John F. Kennedy High School

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You are already in the Hall of Fame of our hearts.

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Annmarie Poveromo and Justin Abramovich



Congratulations
Dr. Gary Morganstern
For being inducted into the
John F. Kennedy Hall of Fame
Your commitment to community,
service and dedication to the students at
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AND
COUGAR NATION WALL OF HONOR



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COL. STEVEN HUNTE, USA (RET)'73
ARTIE KEMPNER '77
JOAN LITTMAN LANDRY '84
STEVE LEVY '83
DR. GARY MORGENSTERN '73
ADAM SCHEFTER '85
LARRY SCOTT '82
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**CONGRATULATIONS TO JFK HIGH SCHOOL
2012 "HALL OF FAME"
& "COUGAR WALL OF HONOR"
INDUCTEES!**

Especially our dear friend
Dr. Gary Morganstern '73

(Doctor of Dentistry/President, JFK Alumni Association)



Ronald Jackson (JFK '72) and Nancy Jackson,
co-founders of Architectural Systems,
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In Honor of

Ronald Steiger

Congratulations
&
Best Wishes



Aunt Gloria & Uncle Ray
The Drago Family

*We would like to congratulate
Ronald Steiger
For his induction
Into the
John F Kennedy
High School Hall of Fame

Jim Lake & Mitchell Katz*

Thank You and Congratulations!



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Congratulations, Dr. Gary Morganstern !



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Gary-

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than you. Congratulations!*

*We love you and appreciate all you do as
a dentist and for your community as well.*

Love: Eve, David, Zach and Jesse Ehrlich

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Congratulations, Dr. Gary Morganstern !

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Autism Delaware congratulates
Artie Kempner on his induction
into the John F. Kennedy
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Congrats, Dr. Gary Morganstern !

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*Congratulations to my dentist, Dr. Gary Morganstern
and to all the 2012 inductees into
The Hall of Fame & Cougar Nation Wall of Honor
You make us all proud !!*

Congratulations to our friends

Dr. Gary Morganstern

&

Susan Holland

You both are outstanding JFK graduates and community members.

Love,

The Piskins

Gina, Ray, Alex, Brandon and Jake

**Once every 18 years special people come along that stand out
in the crowd and deserve to be recognized.
congratulations to Gary Morganstern and Ron Steiger.**

**Mark Meyerowitz
Hall of Fame honoree 1994**

**Congratulations also to Bob Wigand who I have known most of
my life to have been one of the special people who have made
Kennedy High School such a inspiring place to learn.**



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Mark Meyerowitz Karen Meyerowitz*

Congratulations



to Dr. Gary Morganstern and Susan Holland

on being inducted into the

"Kennedy High School Hall of Fame"

Your years of dedication to our children and community
are truly inspiring and appreciated!

With Love,

Amy & Scott Leist

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Congratulations to *Dr. Gary Morganstern*



Angela, Tom, John, Victoria & Louis Freeman

Dr. Gary Morganstern

Congratulations to a man who
puts a smile on your face and
a song in your heart.
A well deserved honor.

Sharon & Dylan Simonson

Congratulations to Ronald Steiger
on his induction to
John F. Kennedy High School's Hall of Fame!



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